

Serial No. 10/807,091
Reply to Office Action of 4/20/05

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 21-42 and 45.

Please add claims 52-74.

Please amend claims 43, 48, and 49.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-42. (Cancelled).
43. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
a marine riser fixed to an ocean floor;
a housing disposed above a portion of the marine riser having a first housing opening and a second housing opening, both to communicate a drilling fluid received from the marine riser;
an inner member rotatable relative to the housing and having a passage through which a rotatable tubular may extend; and
a seal moving with the inner member to sealably engage the rotatable tubular.
44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, further comprising:
a rupture disk blocking the second housing opening to block fluid communication from the housing.
45. (Cancelled).
46. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:
a marine riser positioned relative to a floor of an ocean;
an assembly removably disposed above a portion of the marine riser, the assembly comprising:

Serial No. 10/807,091
Reply to Office Action of 4/20/05

an inner member rotatable relative to the riser and having a passage through which a rotatable tubular may extend;
a radially outwardly disposed outer member;
a plurality of bearings interposed between the inner member and the radially outwardly disposed outer member; and
a seal moving with the inner member to sealably engage the tubular.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, further comprising:
a housing,
wherein the assembly is removably disposed within the housing.
48. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
a housing adapted for positioning above a portion of a marine riser, comprising:
a ~~first~~ housing opening to discharge a drilling fluid received from the marine riser, and
an assembly removably positionable within the housing, comprising:
a sealing member, which rotates relative to the housing, and seals a tubular when the tubular is rotating.
49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 48, further comprising:
a flexible conduit for communicating the drilling fluid from the ~~first~~ housing opening.
50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the housing permits substantially full bore access to the marine riser.
51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48, wherein a portion of the housing extends above an ocean surface.
52. (New) A method, comprising:

Serial No. 10/807,091
Reply to Office Action of 4/20/05

positioning a marine riser relative to an ocean floor;
disposing a housing above a portion of the marine riser;
rotatably sealing a rotatable tubular to the housing; and
pressurizing a drilling fluid in the marine riser.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, disposing a housing above a portion of the marine riser comprising:

receiving the drilling fluid from the marine riser through an opening in the housing.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
discharging the drilling fluid from the opening; and
connecting a flexible conduit to the opening; and
discharging the drilling fluid through the flexible conduit.

55. (New) The method of claim 52, pressurizing a drilling fluid in the marine riser comprising:

blocking an opening in the housing to block fluid communication from the housing; and
clearing the opening at a predetermined pressure of the drilling fluid.

56. (New) The method of claim 52, rotatably sealing a rotatable tubular to the housing comprising:

rotating an inner member relative to the housing; and
sealing the inner member to the rotatable tubular.

57. (New) The method of claim 52, rotatably sealing a rotatable tubular to the housing comprising:

removably positioning an assembly within the housing, a portion of the assembly rotatable relative to the housing; and

Serial No. 10/807,091
Reply to Office Action of 4/20/05

sealing the rotatable tubular to the portion of the assembly.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, further comprising:
unsealing the rotatable tubular from the portion of the assembly; and
removing the assembly from the housing,
wherein the housing remains disposed above the portion of the marine riser.
59. (New) The method of claim 52, disposing a housing above a portion of the
marine riser comprising:
positioning a portion of the housing above an ocean surface.
60. (New) The method of claim 52, positioning a marine riser relative to an ocean
floor comprising:
fixing the marine riser to the ocean floor.
61. (New) The system of claim 43, further comprising:
a flexible conduit for communicating the drilling fluid from at least one of the
housing openings.
62. (New) The system of claim 43, further comprising:
a pressure relief mechanism blocking one of the housing openings, the pressure
relief mechanism adapted to open at a predetermined fluid pressure.
63. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein the pressure relief mechanism is a
rupture disk configured to rupture at the predetermined pressure.
64. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the housing permits substantially full
bore access to the marine riser.
65. (New) The system of claim 43, further comprising:

Serial No. 10/807,091
Reply to Office Action of 4/20/05

- a connector, attachable to one of the housing openings, comprising:
a pressure relief mechanism blocking connector, the pressure relief mechanism adapted to open at a predetermined fluid pressure.
66. (New) The system of claim 65, the connector further comprising:
a valve, adapted to shut off fluid flow from the connector.
67. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein the valve is remotely operable.
68. (New) The system of claim 65, further comprising:
a flexible conduit, attachable to the connector, for communicating the drilling fluid from the marine riser.
69. (New) The system of claim 48, the housing further comprising:
a pressure relief mechanism blocking the housing opening, the pressure relief mechanism adapted to open at a predetermined fluid pressure.
70. (New) The system of claim 48, further comprising:
a connector, attachable to the housing opening, wherein the connector is erosion resistant.
71. (New) The system of claim 70, the connector comprising:
a valve for closing the connector.
72. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the valve is remotely operable.
73. (New) The system of claim 70, the connector comprising:
a rupture disk configured to rupture at a predetermined fluid pressure.
74. (New) The system of claim 49,
wherein a first end of the flexible conduit is attached to the housing, and

Serial No. 10/807,091
Reply to Office Action of 4/20/05

wherein the flexible conduit compensates for relative movement between the housing and a second end of the flexible conduit.